MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2016/2017

PCI0015 – ENGLISH FOR CREATIVE PURPOSES

(All sections)

01 MARCH 2017
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **EIGHT** pages with **TWO** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write all your answers for **SECTION A** and **B** in the Answer Booklet.

SECTION A: LITERATURE [40 MARKS]

Question I: Literary Appreciation (20 marks)
Instructions: Based on the selected short stories, answer **ALL** questions.

1. a) What is the point of view in the story ***A Rose for Emily***? (1 mark)

   b) Explain how the point of view helps to tell the story better. (4 marks)

2. Based on ***The Story of an Hour***, what is the irony in the use of the phrases "*heart trouble*" at the beginning of the story, and "*heart disease*" as the cause of her death at the end of the story? (5 marks)

3. a) Briefly describe the setting of ***The Black Cat***. (2 marks)

   b) Briefly describe the conflict experienced by the narrator in ***The Black Cat***. (3 marks)

4. How is the symbol of "eyes" being used in the story ***The Rocking Horse Winner***? (5 marks)

Question II: Short Story (10 marks)
Instructions: Read the excerpt below and answer **ALL** the questions.

Adapted from "**Paper**"
by Catherine Lim

The house—the dream house—it would be a far cry from the little terrace house in which they were all staying now, and Tay Soon and Yee Lian talked endlessly about it, and it grew magnificently in their imaginations, this dream house of theirs with its timbered ceiling and paneled walls and sunken circular sitting room which was to be carpeted in rich amber. It was no empty dream, for there was much money in the bank already. Forty thousand dollars had been saved. The house would cost many times that, but Tay Soon and Yee Lian with their good salaries would be able to manage very well. Once they took care of the down payment, they would be able to pay back monthly over a period of ten years—fifteen, twenty—what did it matter how long it took as long as the dream house was theirs? It had become the symbol of the peak of earthly achievement, and all of Tay Soon's energies and devotion were directed towards its realization. The forty thousand grew steadily, and after Tay Soon and Yee Lian had put in every cent of their annual bonuses, it grew to forty-eight thousand, and husband and wife smiled at the smooth way their plans were going.

It was a time of growing interest in the stock market. The quotations for stocks and shares were climbing the charts, and the crowds in the rooms of the broking houses were growing perceptibly. The temptation was great. The rewards

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were almost immediate. Thirty thousand dollars' worth of NBE became fifty-five thousand almost overnight. Tay Soon and Yee Lian whooped. They put their remaining eighteen thousand in Far East Mart. Three days later the shares were worth twice that much. Tay Soon secured a loan from his bank and put twenty thousand in OHTE. This was a particularly lucky share; it shot up to four times its value in three days.

And now there was to be no stopping. There was plenty of money to be made in the stock exchange by those who had guts—money to be made by the hour, by the minute, for the prices of stocks and shares were rising faster than anyone could keep track of them! And Tay Soon laughed and cursed—cursed that he had failed to buy a share at nine dollars which a few days later had hit seventeen dollars! Yee Lian said reproachfully, "I thought I told you to buy it, darling," and Tay Soon had beaten his forehead in despair and said, "I know, I know, why didn't I! Big fool that I am!" And he had another reason to curse himself—he sold five thousand West Parkes at sixteen twenty-three per share, and saw, to his horror, West Parkes climb to eighteen ninety the very next day!

"I'll never sell now," he vowed. "I'll hold on. I won't be so foolish." And the frenzy continued. Husband and wife couldn't talk or think of anything else. They thought fondly of their shares—going to be worth a million altogether soon. A million! In the peak of good humour, Yee Lain went to her mother-in-law, forgetting the past insults, and advised her to join the others by buying some shares, she would get her broker to buy them immediately for her, there was sure money in it. The old lady refused curtly, and to her son later, she showed great annoyance, scolding him for being so foolish as to put all his money in those worthless shares. "Worthless!" exploded Tay Soon. "Do you know, Mother, if I sold all my shares today, I would have the money to buy fifty terrace houses like the one you have?"

The comforting, triumphant thought was that soon, very soon, they would be able to purchase their dream house; it would be even more magnificent than the one they had dreamt of, since they had made almost a—Yee Lian preferred not to say the sum. There was the old superstitious fear of losing something when it is too often or too directly referred to, and Yee Lian had cautioned her husband not to make mention of their gains.

"Not to worry, not to worry," he said jovially, not superstitious like his wife, "After all, it's just paper gains so far."

The downward slide, or the bursting of the bubble as the newspapers dramatically called it, did not initially cause much alarm, for the speculators all expected the shares to bounce back to their original strength and thence continue the phenomenal growth. But that did not happen. The slide continued.

Tay Soon said nervously, "Shall we sell? Do you think we should sell?" but Yee Lian said stoutly, "There is talk that this decline is a technical thing only—it will be over soon, and then the rise will continue. After all, see what is happening in Hong Kong and London and New York. Things are as good as ever."

"We're still making, so not to worry," said Yee Lian after a few days. Their gains were pared by half. A few days later, their gains were pared to marginal.

Tay Soon sold all his shares and put the money in OHTE and West Parkes. OHTE and West Parkes crashed shortly afterwards. Some began to say the shares

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were not worth the paper of the certificates.

"All our money was in OHTE and West Parkes," he said, his lips dry.

"How are we going to get our house now?" asked Tay Soon in deep distress, and for the first time he wept. He wept like a child, for the loss of all his money, for the loss of the dream house that he had never stopped loving and worshipping.

The pain bit into his very mind and soul, so that he was like a madman, unable to go to his office to work, unable to do anything but haunt the broking houses, watching with frenzied anxiety for OHTE and West Parkes to show him hope.

And he went on hoping against hope. He began to have wild dreams in which he sometimes laughed and sometimes screamed. His wife Yee Lian was afraid and she ran sobbing to her sister who never failed to remind her curtly that all her savings were gone, simply because when she had wanted to sell, Yee Lian had advised her not to.

Her mother-in-law took charge of the situation, while Yee Lian, wide-eyed in mute horror at the terrible change that had come over her husband, shrank away and looked to her two small children for comfort. Tight-lipped and grim, the elderly woman made herbal medicines for Tay Soon, brewing and straining for hours, and got a Chinese medicine man to come to have a look at him.

"There is a devil in him," said the medicine man, and he proceeded to make him a drink which he mixed with the ashes of a piece of prayer paper. But Tay Soon grew worse. He lay in bed, white, haggard and delirious, seeming to be beyond the touch of healing. In the end, Yee Lian, on the advice of her sister and friends, put him in hospital.

"I have money left for the funeral," whimpered the frightened Yee Lian only a week later, but her mother-in-law sharply retorted, "You leave everything to me! I have the money for his funeral, and I shall give him the best! He wanted a beautiful house all his life; I shall give him a beautiful house now!"

She went to the man who was well-known on the island for his beautiful houses and she ordered the best. It would come to nearly a thousand dollars, said the man, a thin, wizened fellow whose funereal gauntness and pallor seemed to be a concession to his calling.

That doesn't matter, she said, I want the best. The house is to be made of superior paper, she instructed, and he was to make it to her specifications. She recollected that he, Tay Soon, had often spoken of marble flooring, a timbered ceiling and a kidney-shaped swimming pool.

The house, when it was ready, was most beautiful to see. It stood seven feet tall, a delicate framework of wire and thin bamboo strips covered with finely worked paper of a myriad colours. Little silver flowers scattered liberally throughout the entire structure, gave a carnival atmosphere. Inside the house were paper figures; there were at least four servants to attend to the needs of the master who was posed beside two cars, one distinctly a Chevrolet and the other a Mercedes.

At the appointed time, the paper house was brought to Tay Soon's grave and set on fire there. *It burned brilliantly, and in three minutes was a heap of ashes on the grave.*

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1. What is the theme of the story? How is the theme conveyed through the development of the plot? (4 marks)

2. Provide TWO examples of similes from the short story. (2 marks)

3. '*It burned brilliantly, and in three minutes was a heap of ashes on the grave.*' (line 109)
   What can you infer from the sentence above? (2 marks)

4. Using your own words, explain the irony of the story. (2 marks)

Question III: Poetry (10 marks)
Instructions: Read the poem below and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings
by Maya Angelou

A free bird leaps on the back of the wind
and floats downstream till the current ends
and dips his wing in the orange sun's rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage
can seldom see through his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
of things unknown but longed for still
and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
of things unknown but longed for still

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and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom.

1. Identify the differences in tone between stanza 1 and stanza 2. (2 marks)

2. Why did the narrator use the images of a free bird and a caged bird in the poem? (2 marks)

3. Provide TWO examples of rhyme from the poem. (2 marks)

4. *But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams*
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
What do these two lines suggest? (2 marks)

5. What is the message of the poem? (2 marks)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Question I: Verb Tense Consistency (10 marks)

Instructions: The following extract contains ten (10) errors in verb tense consistency. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example below:

Example:

No	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	… were …	… are …

The truth about fitness and staying hydrated

Whether you are a seasoned athlete or you **were** just starting out in the wonderful world of physical fitness, we all need to stay hydrated when we exercise. Being aware of what you drink helps your body to get the most out of your activity, while it will also aid your recovery when you had finished.

Recently, a research on the importance of hydration was carried out. It shows that if we do not top these water levels back up again, our body is likely to become dehydrated. This can affect our general health, while it also makes it less likely that we will get the most out of any exercise we choose to do. You are likely to feel tired more quickly than usual, and your body may also struggle to control your temperature. Water played a key role in every one of our bodily functions, and when we exercise we can lose up a litre an hour through breathing heavily and sweating.

Your muscles are reliant on water for fuel, and it can also help you to avoid developing cramps. Just how much you drink depended on how long you exercise, and how much you sweat. The best advice here is to listen to your body. If you feel

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thirsty, have a drink, and keep a bottle of water handy at all times where possible. Many people often forget about being hydrated before they exercise, but it is very important especially in warm weather.

If you are not hydrated when you start exercising, your body temperature will rise faster and your heart will have to work harder, which will have a detrimental impact on your performance, and may also lead to heat stroke.

Drinking enough water before you exercise often helped you to avoid these problems. The quickest way to test your hydration levels is to check your urine. If it is completely clear, you are fully hydrated and ready to start.

Fluids can take a while to absorb into your body, so drink steadily throughout the day. It is helpful to drink around 500 ml of fluid at least four hours before you exercise and another 250 ml in the 10 to 15 minutes before you start. When you are dehydrated, it is only natural that you will tire more quickly. Our bodies are made up of around 60% water, and our muscle cells are close to three quarters water, so a shortage of fluids makes things more difficult. Having drinks little and often during exercise, rather than a lot occasionally, gave you the best chance of getting the most out of your exercise regime.

After an exercise, not only will you need to drink to refresh yourself, but also to aid the recovery of your muscles. Drinking lots of fluids can aid in restoring fluid levels around your muscles, and the quicker you start to replace these lost fluids, the sooner you are recovering.

Sometimes it is very tempting to have a beer after you have exercised, but drinking alcohol removed water from your body as it increases the amount of urine your kidneys produce. This will slow down your recovery, not help speed it up.

Can you drink too much? The short answer is yes. Drinking too much can cause hyponatraemia, a rare condition produced by drinking more fluid than your body loses. When this happens, the water in your body diluted the salts in your system and can lead to swelling.

This, in turn, has caused a host of problems later. How much you need to drink to develop hyponatraemia varies from person to person, but symptoms include headaches, feeling disorientated, nausea, vomiting, and muscle cramps. However, as the hyponatraemia is so rare, you would need to drink an awful lot of water for it to develop. It helps to be aware of it, but it should not put you off drinking before, during and after exercise.

The sports drink market grows over the last 20 years, so it is very easy to think they are a necessity for exercise. In reality, they are only really required for people who do a lot of strenuous training.

If you tend to moderately exercise for under an hour, you will be fine with water to hydrate yourself. If you exercise for any longer, sports drinks or even squash can help you keep going, as they replace lost fluid and contain both electrolytes and carbohydrates.

Adapted from Bolam, S. (July 21 2016). Retrieved from http://patient.info/wellbeing/fitness/the-truth-about-fitness-and-staying-hydrated

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Question II: Passive and Active Sentences (10 marks)

Part A: (5 marks)
Instructions: Change the following active sentences into passive sentences.

Example:
(0) The terrible news shocked everybody yesterday.
Everybody was shocked by the terrible news yesterday.

1. According to an annual health journal, majority of people from all walks of life who suffered from kidney failure had experienced shortage of fluids in their daily food intake.

2. Contrary to common belief that academic qualifications secure a job, JobStreet pointed out that poor work attitudes and communication skills contributed to the poor rankings.

3. Industry leaders are offering courses to young entrepreneurs as this will help their businesses to bloom and generate greater revenue.

4. Weak students were able to pass their exam because their lecturer always calls them to attend special discussion after office hours.

5. Employees who ignore the need to seek sufficient information have inevitably caused more cases related to losing of clients in their company.

Part B: (5 marks)
Instructions: Change the following passive sentences into active sentences.

Example:
(0) Everybody was shocked by the terrible news yesterday.
The terrible news shocked everybody yesterday.

1. Depression screening for all young people ages 11 through 21 is being recommended by The American Academy of Pediatrics because symptoms of depression are often not recognised by teachers, parents or even physicians.

2. An artistic renaissance to take the Music and Arts industry to new heights will be galvanised by public personalities by involving themselves more proactively as patrons.

3. In this very competitive world, big trade events have often been organised by industries that offer products and services, to promote a business.

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4. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) which calculates the level of perception of corruption in the public sector was launched in 1995 by Transparency International (TI), a German based non-governmental corruption monitor.

5. A nasty infection had been picked up by Jack before he went abroad to attend a conference recently, and he had to take a slew of drugs to recover.

End of Paper